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WARTIME WORK OF STATE EXTENSION SERVICES

(Digested From Reports of State Extension Directors)

Summary No. 18

July 11, 1942

ARIZONA (June 1).--Planning conference for home demonstration agents' program held May 25-29 included considering war responsibilities such agents with emphasis on program of farm women in assuring health of family and freedom from fire and accident. During conference nutritionist conducted school on home drying fruits and vegetables. Leaflet on this subject with plans for constructing home dehydrator sent out during June.

Home demonstration agent one county conducted 3 refresher canning schools including rural women from 11 communities.

Meetings held with groups representative farmers for discussion production goals and possibility attaining same. Also meetings with cotton growers for discussion changes required to affect maximum production S.X.P. cotton in 1943.

Continued emphasis placed on production pasture crops to bring about higher production milk, beef, poultry, etc. Rangeland grasshopper control campaign continued and control campaigns being started in cultivated areas. County agent one county stressing importance alfalfa seed production to carry on seed-improvement program which has been in progress several years.

Forest Service cooperation obtained for fire-fighting demonstrations. Outlines for procedure sent all counties, with farm fire hazard check sheet.

Use of sulfur for animal dips being tried out due to shortage arsenical dips. Bulletin being prepared on general swine management in Arizona.

One county organized 4-H rural electrification club to emphasize home repair electrical appliances.

MAINE (July 1).--Program to control cost of living and general economic background necessary to understand program discussed in meetings of extension agents and local leaders each county. Agents held community meetings of neighborhood leaders to discuss cost-of-living program, priorities, sugar rationing for canning, and construction regulations.

Special report on advisability and suggestions on grain storage for poultrymen and dairymen prepared and furnished extension agents and State AAA. Also news release prepared. Suggestions included advisability of carrying reserve against transportation delays, buying in larger quantities for economy, suggestions on credit, and construction of suitable storage.

Farm wood-lot owners through agents, press, and radio have received information on current market prices, where forest products can be sold, figures on operating costs from different cutting methods. Northeastern Wood Utilization Council furnished information on sawdust burner now being used to heat many homes.

14 counties report selection 5,736 neighborhood leaders for 529 communities.

Special emphasis placed on nutrition program. Agents and specialists conducted 694 meetings attended by 14,913 persons. Civilian Defense and other local organizations participated. Additional home demonstration agents to be placed in counties to assist rural food-preservation program. Additional workers made possible by allocation of funds by Governor from State Emergency War Fund.

County agents assisting U. S. Employment Service with enrollment of students for farm work.

Club enrollment exceeds all previous records; 14,970 members in food production and conservation projects.

Extension editors handling publicity for Maine USDA War Board in cooperation with secretary of board. Subjects on which stories have been written: Labor situation, selective service and farm labor, rubber shortage, truck situation, 4-H Food-for-Victory projects, neighborhood leaders, emergency canning centers, work of State nutrition committee.

Series of Food-for-Victory circulars prepared for wide distribution. 60,000 copies Home Canning Guide printed.

MISSOURI (June 1).--114 Missouri counties completing organization in order that trained community and neighborhood leaders may keep rural people informed on vital subjects pertinent to assisting in winning the war.

State extension staff, specialists, and county agents have worked together in 14 conferences on National Program for price control. Agents supplied with discussion outlines, subject-matter folder on 7-point program, and helps for leaders in conducting discussion meetings. Training schools for community and neighborhood leaders in progress. Neighborhood leaders have received 15,000 copies of printed leaflet on price control to use in meetings.

Ten district meetings on use of dairy products, particularly surplus milk, completed series of food-for-home training meetings for agents. 3 meetings per day held by agents helped Jefferson County farmers in making of solid cheese as means of saving surplus milk and adding another home-produced food to winter dietary; 37 Ripley County leaders trained in cheese making in one week. One county agent arranged with milk plant managers to hold meetings with producers to discuss quality milk production methods.

County reports show rapid progress in food preservation. Some counties report food canning pledges two-thirds filled. By radio, newspapers, meetings, circular letters, farm people have been told how to can with less sugar and how to use sugar substitutes. Plans for two types fruit and vegetable driers sent to counties. Newspapers receiving timely vegetable information for each issue.

310 leaders attended 28 leader training schools on care of chicks for maximum egg production. Extension agents held 56 meetings attended by 780 producers. Lumber dealers and poultry packers cooperating. 9 illustrated and printed circular letters used in most counties deal with laying problems, sanitation, parasites, pox control, and feeding.

Program to emphasize soil conservation as production is increased for war shows following: 99 counties report 20,123 farmers contouring and strip cropping, brought about by all agencies concerned holding 1,524 meetings attended by 15,805 farmers. Extension held 757 of such meetings attended by 8,671 farmers, with 259 meetings yet to be held. Extension visited 79 counties in the four critical soil areas of State making follow-up plans for continuance of contouring and other practices to protect land from excessive soil losses.

County agents conducted 2,718 meetings on care of machinery with attendance 52,983. Farm machinery surveys being made in counties. Results of farm truck survey in counties reported.

Meetings on 1943 production goals held 10 counties. 100 farmers Lawrence County signed agreements produce castor bean seed; AAA community committeemen, vocational agriculture students, and farmers trained in culture of same.

Indications of a 50 percent increase in 4-H Club ownership of ewes over 1941 record, which was 8,000 head of ewes shearing 3 carloads, or 75,000 pounds of wool, and producing a lamb crop of 8,000 lambs.

Ozark County collected 267,332 pounds scrap iron, 11,300 pounds paper, 3,100 pounds rags, 5,300 pounds rubber, 475 pounds brass and aluminum.

That Missouri farmers sought information in May and received it, is shown by 42,726 extension circulars being sent out on direct request.

SOUTH DAKOTA (July 1).---Selection of neighborhood leaders completed in all counties and all such leaders sent personal letter by county agent concerned confirming selection and accompanied by leaflet, "You Are a Neighborhood Leader." Program operated in close cooperation with war board. State-wide projects cleared with State war board, and county projects with county war board. Committee to be appointed at State headquarters to consider what material is to be routed through neighborhood system and what material is to be supplied counties by the State office.

Boards of commissioners 49 counties signed cooperative agreement with Extension and Entomology in grasshopper control. Government supplies poison and materials; county mixes bait and supplies it to farmers. County agent is leader of control program in each county participating.

At request State war board all county war boards held meetings of representative bankers, credit agencies, hardware dealers, lumbermen, to consider grain storage problem. County agents active all counties in supplying plans to farmers and lumber dealers, and explaining credit assignments to farmers. Mimeographed bulletin on temporary storage sent to county agents, lumber dealers, elevator men, bankers, and other key people interested in grain storage problem.

Every farmer asked to report number of acres and kind of grain he wishes to have custom combined, and each combine owner asked to report number of acres he will be able to combine in addition to his own acreage. This information will be reported at the nearest county agent office or to nearest volunteer employment agent. By this method it is hoped that war boards will be able to assist U. S. Employment Service in routing custom combiners from outside the State into areas where needed, and use local combines to the best advantage.

Sheep dipping demonstrations held in 11 counties with portable dipping outfit. Farmers urged to form dipping rings and build similar outfit cooperatively. Several counties have built such equipment and are operating it successfully.

WISCONSIN (July 6).--In the educational campaign on control of inflation and cost of living entire staff of college economics department was drafted to train a speakers' bureau in each county, with meetings held latter part of May and first of June. Following this local leader training meetings were conducted by county agents in all counties and meetings are now being held in rural neighborhoods by trained local leaders. At these latter meetings a trained speaker discusses the subject; a check sheet is then distributed and information given on how to use. Plan worked out in each neighborhood meeting to reach families not attending. Information pamphlet, "Fight Inflation," furnished all neighborhood leaders.

A second series of district county agent conferences held on garden management and food preservation, with State divided into six districts and agents spending full day receiving training on follow-up work on garden program (insect and disease control -- storage) and nutrition program launched with plans for food preservation. Local leaders on nutrition named in about 7,000 neighborhoods, and all have received training.

All extension programs designed to assist farmers in their wartime production efforts. District supervisors now meeting with county agricultural committees to complete revision of county extension programs for 1942, which will be broad enough so that they will encompass the work anticipated for 1943.